

## **Abstract of the Disclosure**

5 A system for performing collaborative tasks which permits collaborators to determine the form of a  
model of the collaborative work, to modify the model in the course of the collaborative work, and to  
use the model to access information related to the collaborative work. A graphical user interface  
permits collaborators to view the model and the information accessible via the model in various  
ways as well as to modify the model and the information. Collaborators are organized into groups  
10 and a collaborator's group membership determines how the collaborator may access and modify the  
model and the related information. The information related to the collaborative work includes  
documents, discussions, email, reminders, and alerts. In a disclosed embodiment of the system, the  
model is made up of model entities which belong to hierarchies. A model entity may be a member  
of more than one hierarchy and the different hierarchies are used to provide different views of the  
15 model.